



LEMHI COUNTY PROFILE

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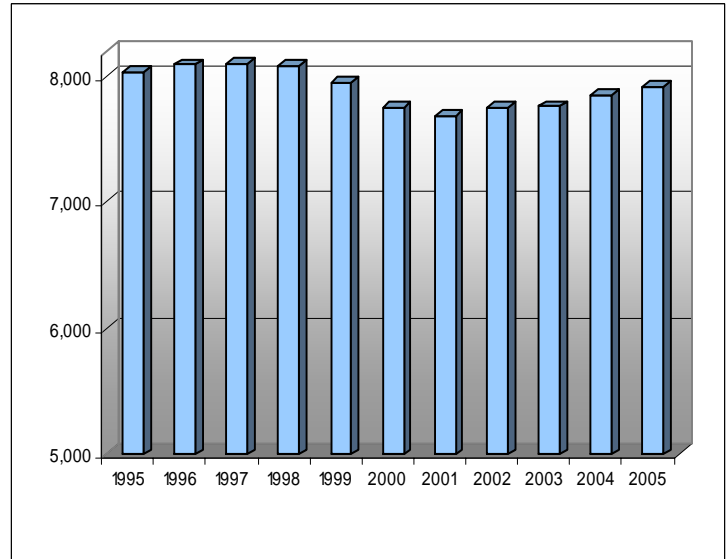
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E-Mail: talban@cl.idaho.gov — Labor Market Information website: cl.idaho.gov/lmi

Population

Lemhi County has been highly dependent on the *Mining* industry for most of its history. Currently ranked 31st in the state for population, the county shows a figure of 7,909 for 2005. The county has declined by 120 people over the decade with a 1997 peak of almost 8,100. Average annual decline over the decade is 12 people, however larger declines were experienced during 1999 and 2000. Since 2001, there has been a steady increase in population with an increase of over 150 in the most recent two years.

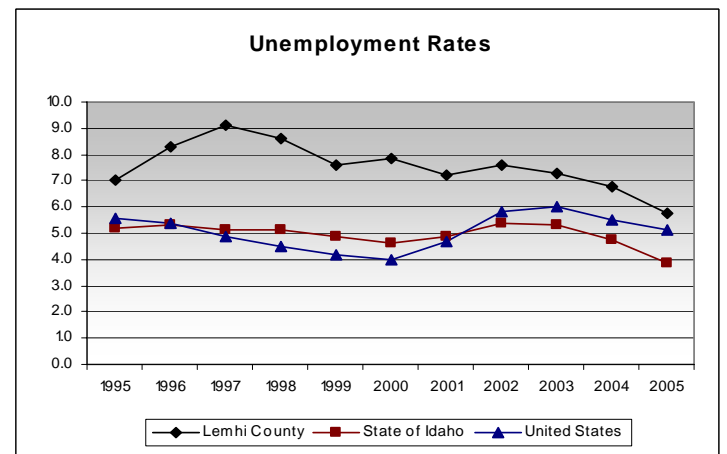
Mine closures left workers, once used to a low cost of living and high salaries, without their accustomed lifestyle. However, the Thompson Mine (Custer Co.) added a few more employees as prices for its commodity increased enough to make this feasible. It is unknown how long the price and demand will allow this to continue. A strong concentration in economic development remains in the scenic county as a business incubation center, a large hospital and a very impressive Sacajawea Educational & Interpretive Center were built in the past several years.



Labor Force & Employment

Lemhi County was close to double digit unemployment rates in the start of the decade, but has impressively lowered it comparable to state and national rates. Currently with an unemployment rate of 5.7 percent, the county is growing and defining itself with diversity, capturing its strengths. Summer fires over the decade, some of which demanded national help, show up in peaks of unemployment. However, the county has rebounded with much support from residents and officials since that time.

As seen in the pie chart on the second page of this profile, *Government* employs 35 percent of workers. Over 90 percent of the land is owned by the federal government; the *Environmental Quality* sector (such as the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and Idaho Fish & Game) employs the most people. Also, many people are employed in the agricultural



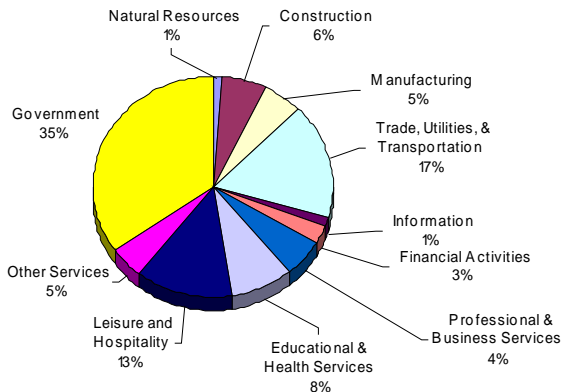
sector, although that data is not included in *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs*. Total acreage for cattle inventory is almost as high as total acreage for crops. *Trade and Leisure & Hospitality* employ 30 percent collectively. *Trade* represents large employment not only in *Food Stores* and *Eating/Drinking Establishments*, but surprisingly also in *Auto Dealerships*. The county services a large geographical area, including bordering states, for new and used cars.

Over the decade, *Government* increased 12.3 percent, 95 people, and also increased the most in average wages, up \$8,739. Overview and clean-up after mine closures and maintenance of government lands make up many jobs.

Labor Force	May 2005	May 2006
Civilian Labor Force	4,097	4,330
Total Employment	3,878	4,116
Unemployed	219	213
Lemhi County % Unemployed	5.3	4.9
State of Idaho % Unemployed	3.9	3.4
U.S. % Unemployed	5.1	4.7

Labor Force	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Civilian Labor Force	4,142	4,217	4,103	4,075	3,852	3,833	3,890	3,559	3,783	3,983	4,122
Unemployment	289	351	372	349	292	300	281	270	275	270	237
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.0	8.3	9.1	8.6	7.6	7.8	7.2	7.6	7.3	6.8	5.7
Employment	3,853	3,866	3,731	3,726	3,560	3,533	3,609	3,289	3,508	3,712	3,885

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2004



Major Employers

Discovery Care Center LLC
Lemhi County
Idaho Department of Fish & Game
Q B Corporation
Salmon Public Schools #291
Saweway Market Inc.
Steele Memorial Hospital
U.S. Government

Eastern ID Occupation Wages* Average Wage

Agricultural Workers	\$8.47
Cashiers	\$7.79
Farmworkers, Farm & Ranch Animals	\$8.34
Food & Beverage Serving Workers	\$6.59
Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurses	\$14.06
Nursing Aides, Orderlies, and Attendants	\$9.03
Health Diagnosing & Treating Practitioners	\$27.60
Production Occupations	\$13.27
Receptionists & Information Clerks	\$9.67
Retail Sales Workers	\$9.52

* Wages include 15 counties of eastern Idaho. Additional Occupational Wage data can be found on the Idaho Commerce & Labor website at cl.idaho.gov/lmi.

Covered Employment & Wages

Covered Employment includes employers who are subject to state and federal Unemployment Insurance laws. These laws apply to approximately 92 percent of Idaho's employers.

Average employment by covered employers increased 293 jobs over the decade, with wages increasing \$4,053. Per capita income in the county is below both the state and national averages at \$22,312. The county is seeing gradual growth with heavy concentration on economic development.

Covered Employment & Average Annual Wages Per Job for 1994, 2003, & 2004	1994		2003		2004	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
Total Covered Wages	2,237	\$18,434	2,458	\$21,899	2,530	\$22,487
Agriculture	43	\$23,073	47	\$22,856	49	\$23,982
Mining	44	\$48,230	13	\$57,558	*	*
Construction	113	\$21,495	144	\$21,906	154	\$21,761
Manufacturing	177	\$21,011	120	\$24,397	136	\$27,773
Trade, Utilities, & Transportation	419	\$13,579	445	\$17,094	433	\$18,014
Information	47	\$12,623	34	\$14,867	37	\$14,566
Financial Activities	68	\$18,210	76	\$19,205	70	\$20,172
Professional and Business Services	44	\$19,729	13	\$18,263	*	\$17,013
Educational and Health Services	143	\$15,473	198	\$14,624	216	\$15,155
Leisure and Hospitality	311	\$8,076	328	\$9,673	339	\$9,768
Other Services	42	\$10,303	78	\$15,099	82	\$17,536
Government	775	\$23,495	876	\$31,140	870	\$32,234

Per Capita Income	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Lemhi County	\$16,329	\$16,504	\$17,953	\$18,689	\$18,984	\$19,673	\$20,998	\$20,273	\$20,922	\$22,312
State of Idaho	\$18,707	\$19,426	\$20,248	\$20,648	\$21,789	\$22,786	\$24,075	\$25,185	\$25,330	\$26,877
United States	\$22,172	\$23,076	\$24,175	\$25,334	\$26,883	\$27,939	\$29,845	\$30,575	\$30,804	\$31,472

Information provided by U.S. Census Bureau



This county is served by the office listed below:
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